

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208290
ORIGIN SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00
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DRAFTED BY SSM/E:J WALLEN, JR.:MA
APPROVED BY SSM:C W KONTOS
SSM/C:L G PENDLETON, JR.
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P 311851Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANET, OGEN

SUBJECT: CAIRO COMMUNICATIONS LINK

REF: SINAI 1638

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING US OF UNEF'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN ISMAILIA AND CAIRO. ALTHOUGH THIS MAY BE A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT ALERT LINK, OUR FIRST PREFERENCE IS TO USE EGYPTIAN-PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, WE CONCUR WITH YOUR PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF AN EGYPTIAN LINE FROM MOW CAIRO TO ISMAILIA.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER A UNEF-PROVIDED VHF LINK IN OUR CURRENT TRADE-OFF ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESENT ALERT LINK. HOWEVER, WE MUST HAVE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BEFORE A MEANINGFUL COMPARISON CAN
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BE MADE. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE SSM ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SOONEST SO THAT UNEF-PROVIDED LINK CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE SEPTEMBER EIGHT E-SYSTEMS - GREENVILLE AND SSM DISCUSSIONS ON THE CAIRO ALERT LINK:

A. WHEN WILL UNEF'S VHF LINK BETWEEN ISMAILIA AND CAIRO BE OPERATIONAL?

B. CAN UNEF PROVIDE US A DEDICATED FULL-DUPLEX VOICE CIRCUIT BETWEEN ISMAILIA AND CAIRO?

C. WHERE WOULD THE CIRCUIT TERMINATE IN CAIRO AND HOW WOULD WE CONNECT TO OUR TERMINAL IN THE MOW?

D. WHAT TYPE OF COST SHARING ARRANGEMENT WOULD UNEF BE WILLING TO MAKE AND WHAT WOULD BE THE APPROXIMATE INITIAL HOOK-UP COSTS AND MONTHLY OPERATING COSTS? WOULD COST SHARING BE ON THE BASIS OF A FIXED MONTHLY CHARGE, PRORATED OPERATING CHARGE OR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PLUS OPERATING CHARGE?

E. SINCE UNEF IS USING A VHF SYSTEM WITH RELAYS, WHAT ASSURANCE DO WE HAVE THAT THEY WILL NOT ENCOUNTER THE SAME OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD WITH THE VHF CAIRO ALERT LINK (I. E., DIFFICULTY OF ACCESS TO RELAY AND TERMINAL SITES, ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE, POWER FAILURE AND UNAUTHORIZED TAMPERING)?

F. WHAT MIGHT BE GOE'S REACTION TO OUR USING UNEF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR ALERT PURPOSES?

3. WITH REGARD TO SFM PROVIDING POWER TO CP BRAVO, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT A MUCH SHORTER LINE WOULD BE REQUIRED
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IF UNEF WERE TO OBTAIN POWER FROM THE ISRAELI INSTALLATION LOCATED NEARBY. REQUEST YOUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.
CHRISTOPHER

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